

Engineers team for mutual technology development

by Barbara Baca, Directed Energy Directorate

KIRTLAND AFB, N.M. — Four engineers from the Air Armament Center (AAC) at Eglin AFB, Fla., have been assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory here to foster increased collaboration between the two organizations.

Bringing their experience and knowledge of weapons systems engineering and test evaluation of military systems to the Directed Energy Directorate are John Cserep, Robert Stovall, Duane Strickland and Ian Talbot. The engineers will work at Kirtland AFB for up to two years before returning to Eglin AFB.

Cserep is a systems development engineer and is currently working in the High Power Microwave Division where he is helping integrate laboratory technology into existing or potential weapons. "I have been interested in directed energy since high school and this is a great opportunity for me. I believe this program should happen on a continuing basis," the nine year Air Force veteran said.

Stovall, a senior engineer, has worked in Air Force research and development for thirty-five years. At Kirtland he is managing a joint AFRL Air Armament Center high-power microwave test and evaluation of the F-16 fighter and carried munitions to see how well they withstand exposure to different potential threats.

"This is an important first step in a several step process leading to a greater understanding of potential directed energy weapons effects on our blue weapon systems and platforms," Stovall said. "That knowledge will be very useful when I return to Eglin."

Strickland is a systems development engineer and has experience in several technical areas including test and evaluation of air-to-air missiles. Strickland said he has been with the government for 12 years and volunteered for this assignment for the opportunity to learn about new and emerging technologies. He has been assigned to the directorate's laser division where he is studying how lasers may be placed on fighter-size aircraft as well as using lasers to perform countermeasures.

Talbot is a test-programming engineer with experience in



A NEW ARRIVAL — Engineers from the Air Armament Center, Eglin AFB, Fla., review the capabilities of a 15,000-watt carbon-dioxide laser that is used to study the effects of laser light on materials. The engineers, from left, John Cserep, Duane Strickland, Robert Stovall and Ian Talbot will conduct research at the Directed Energy Directorate for up to two years.

lethality evaluations. He is working in the Laser Effects Test Facility on the Airborne Laser and Space Based Laser projects.

"I think the intent of this program was for us to bring a different perspective to our work with the Directed Energy Directorate," Talbot, a 12-year-veteran said. "Rather than focusing solely on the development of technology, the AAC specializes in transitioning and integrating technologies into weapons systems including test and evaluation of the maturing system. That's what we're good at."

Directed Energy Directorate officials noted that this is an opportunity to develop technologies and weapons, and assist with current projects at the AAC. The engineers agreed that close cooperation between these two organizations will benefit the technologies involved, the organizations and the Air Force. @